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Dulles Ends Illustrious Spy Career On Retirement

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Allen W. Dulles who is retiring later this year as chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, has served every President since Woodrow Wilson.

Now 68, the brother of the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles has been director of the hush - hush cloak - and - dagger agency since Feb. 26, 1953, when President Eisenhower chose him for the post. But he actually started government service at age 23 as a diplomat in Europe.

One of John F. Kennedy's first acts as President was to ask Dulles to stay on.

Perhaps the high point in his career came in World War II when, operating from Switzerland, he formed a spy network that reached deep into Nazi Germany. It produced advance information on the V-1 and V-2 rockets, played a role in the bomb plot against Adolf Hitler, and was given much of the credit for the surrender of German troops in northern Italy in 1945.

Perhaps the low points — in terms of what the public is likely to remember about the CIA under Dulles' direction — were the U-2 "spy plane" incident, which broke up Eisenhower's Paris summit conference and the Cuban invasion fiasco.

But Dulles in his role as master spy has succeeded in gaining fame despite the secrecy aspects of his work.

For his wartime service, he received from the government the Medal of Merit and Presidential Citation, and the Medal of Freedom, as well as honors from France, Belgium and Italy.